



*Congresswoman*  
**VERONICA ESCOBAR**  
*Texas' 16th Congressional District*

April 2021

# 2021 Congressional Art Competition

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: How do I submit my art?**

- A: Send an email to [TX16.Submissions@mail.house.gov](mailto:TX16.Submissions@mail.house.gov) with your completed [Student Information and Release Form](#) and a high-quality photo of your artwork. Put the artist's name in the subject line of the email. We only accept one entry per student.

### **Q: How can I ensure that I'm submitting the best photo?**

- A: You don't need a professional camera to capture your work. Just follow these easy tips:
  - Choose a white or other solid-colored background
  - Minimize distractions in the photo
  - Hang up or tape your art to the wall, if possible
  - Make sure camera lens is clean
  - Avoid shadow/glare

### **Q: Is there a specific theme for the competition?**

- A: No. We did not choose a theme so that artists have the chance to shine without limitations. We find that the best work comes from pieces that convey what you want to say about who you are and where you come from.

### **Q: Who will be judging the submissions?**

- A: We select a panel of five local judges ranging from professional artists, Higher Education instructors, museum curators, to creative directors, etc. We rotate the panel each year to ensure a fresh perspective and do not disclose their names until after judging takes place to maintain impartiality.

### **Q: What criteria do judges look for?**

- A: Every judge brings a different background and perspective, but in general, they look for the following:
  - Dynamic, attention-grabbing art
  - Human/personal element
  - Good technical and aesthetic skill

**Q: How important are artist statements for the judges?**

- A: Artist statements (located at the bottom of page 1 of your Student Information and Release Form) are very important, particularly for non-representational art (i.e. minimalist or abstract art). Your statement will provide important background to the piece and a guide to what you want the viewer/audience to see. Keep artist statements simple and about the work itself, not the artist (i.e. why you became an artist).

**Q: Do I need to be in an art class at school to be eligible?**

- A: You do not need to be enrolled in an art class or school club to compete. However, you must be in grades 9-12 and be a resident of TX-16 Congressional District. To check your residential address, click [here](#).